Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—In the light of the observation just now made by the President may I know whether that statement which is now seen to be incorrect should be allowed to continue there?

Mr. President.—Any suggestion put to the President will be considered.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—In the light of the present answer the question is not an irresponsible one.

Publicity Officer—Duties of.

27. Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) what is the nature of the work of the Publicity Officer now;

(2) how many hours does he work on an average now?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(1) The nature of the work of the Publicity Officer has been detailed in the Press Communique dated 20th April 1937, copy of which is appended. *(Appendix I).*

Besides the duties mentioned in the Communique, he has to take out and bring to the notice of the Heads of Departments concerned cuttings of all articles and correspondence appearing in leading newspapers published both within the State and outside relating to important occurrences in the State. In the case of cuttings which deserve to be brought to the notice of the Diwan, he has to translate them into English and submit them for the perusal of the Diwan. He has also been entrusted recently with the work of bringing out a book descriptive of important places and institutions in the State for the guidance of tourists.

(2) He works during the usual office hours—from 11 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—The Member who has sent this question is absent and since there are 4 or 5 questions standing in his name other Members may be allowed to put supplementary questions.

Mr. President.—The Member should have authorised other Members to ask the questions. Anyhow I do not mind allowing you to put supplementary questions on these as a special case.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Before proceeding with the question I wish to point out that I had made a suggestion during the last Budget session whether any improvement cannot be made in the method of answering questions. You were pleased to tell us that you would consider this and give a ruling.

Mr. President.—The point is purely a matter of convenience. I have observed the practice in various legislatures and it is recognised that reading out the answers draws the attention of every one of the members to the subject matter of the question.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—I would like to know from the Government by way of examples a few of the activities other than those mentioned in the appendix.

Mr. President.—He has been entrusted with the work of writing a book on Cochin.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—Are there other things?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—There are other things.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—I would like to know a few of the main contradictions published by this Officer.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—There are some, I know. But I can't give them off hand.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—As a result of the contradictions published by this Officer has there been any dimunition of such irresponsible statements being published subsequent to his appointment?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—Yes. It is hoped so.

Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar (*Trichur North*).—With reference to the answer I should like to know whether he has got access to the papers which have been banned in the State.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—I do not think that he has access.

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Mr. T. S. Balarama Ayyar (*Trichur North*).—Suppose there are damaging allegations made in those banned papers should he not be given access to those papers to challenge the statements made? Because I know that there are at times certain damaging statements.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know whether the publication of such irresponsible statements by papers which do not find a way of entering the State is not damaging the prestige of the Government if they go uncontroverted?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—That depends upon the nature of the paper that makes the statement. If they occur in some minor papers they are ignored. In the case of some important papers which come here, if they contain any irresponsible statement, they are controverted.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know whether the Government are aware that subsequent to the banning of two papers they still continue to publish such statements that have been taken exception to by this Government?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—The Government are not aware.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—With regard to (c) in appendix I may, know which are the reports thus far published?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—He has taken up that work only this year onwards. That is he will be publishing the Administration Report of last year this year.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (*Wadakkancheri*).—May I know who was preparing the Administration Reports hitherto?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar (*Secretary to Government*).—It was done in the Secretariat. The Administration Reports of the various departments will be sent to the Secretariat. Now this work has been entrusted with the publicity officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan ((*Wadakkancheri*).—With regard to the former portion of the answer I should like to know whether this work was not mainly done by the Secretary

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to Government himself of course with the help of the subordinate staff? Was it not mainly done by the Secretary?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It was done in the Secretariat.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur South).*—May I know whether there is any other Government which have entrusted this kind of work to the Publicity Officer?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Yes; it is done in Mysore by their Publicity Officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether this arrangement of getting this work done by the Publicity Officer is an improvement on the old practice?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It remains to be seen.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know what are the qualifications of this Officer for entrusting him with such an important work?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Because he is the publicity officer.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Are we to understand that he is entrusted with this work simply for the reason that he is the publicity officer?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—It has been considered to be his duty and it has to be done by him.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know what are the qualifications of this Officer, academic, technical or otherwise?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—No qualifications are prescribed for the post under the rules. He has wide journalistic experience and general ability.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether before he was appointed to this responsible post he was only a reporter of the Madras Mail in Ernakulam?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—For some time he was the reporter of the Madras Mail. He was the editor of a paper here for some time. He was connected with the leading dailies in Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.

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Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know how he was connected with the leading papers in Madras and Calcutta?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—For some time he was on the editorial staff of the Times of India and the Statesman. He was also connected with the 'Justice' as its sub-editor. He was connected with very many papers before he came to Cochin.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the Government have any idea of his journalistic experience as an Editor?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—Vast.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Can we have any definite idea of that vastness of experience in terms of words?

Anchal Service—Delivery of letters.

28. Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(1) when will a letter posted at about 4 p. m. on a certain day at the Anchal Office, Chittur, be delivered to the addressee at Ernakulam;

(2) when will a letter posted at 6 p. m. in Madras on a day be delivered to the addressee at Chittur?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government).*—

(1) A letter posted at 4 p. m. at the Chittur Anchal Office on a day will be delivered at Ernakulam 18 hours later.

(2) A letter posted at 6 p. m. in Madras on a day will be delivered at Chittur by about the same time as is shown in the answer to sub-division (1).

Mr. A. Eachara Menon *(Chittur Rural).*—The clearance in Chittur Anchal Office is between 2 and 3. These letters are taken to Trichur by bus and kept there for the Cochin Express the next day. My question was with regard to a letter posted at 4 p. m., i. e. after the clearance.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the possibility of shortening the time taken for delivery of letters posted at Chittur to

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APPENDIX I.

(Question No. 27.)

PRESS COMMUNIQUE.

Mr. K. V. Menon, who has been appointed Publicity Officer to the Cochin Government, will assume charge of his duties on the 30th April. His office will be in the Huzur Secretariat Buildings.

(2) The duties of the Publicity Officer will be, among other things, as follows:—

(a) The Publicity Officer will issue, from time to time, authoritative contradictions to the numerous mis-statements that sometimes appear in the local Press regarding the administration of the State.

(b) By issuing "Editors' table papers" and other communications from time to time, the Publicity Officer will give authentic information to newspapers and journals regarding the actions and policies of Government.

(c) The Publicity Officer will issue to the Press summaries of the Administration Reports of the various departments of the State and other important Government publications and will also be entrusted with the duty of preparing the annual Administration Report of the State.

(d) The Publicity Officer will meet newspaper representatives and correspondents every Friday at 3-30 p. m. in his office and give them any information that may be available for publication in the Press.

(2) Newspaper correspondents and representatives are cordially invited to get into touch with the Publicity Officer and obtain from him authentic information regarding all matters about the administration of the State.

The Huzur Secretariat,
Public and Political Department,
20th April 1937.
8th Medam 1112

(By order)

T. S. NARAYANA AYYAR,

Secretary to Government.

APPENDIX II.

(Question No. 32)

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF COCHIN.

Development Department.

L. C. Resolution No. 7—Mr. A. Eachara Menon.

Read the following resolution tabled by Mr. A. Eachara Menon,—

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